What to Expect from a CLASS™ Observation
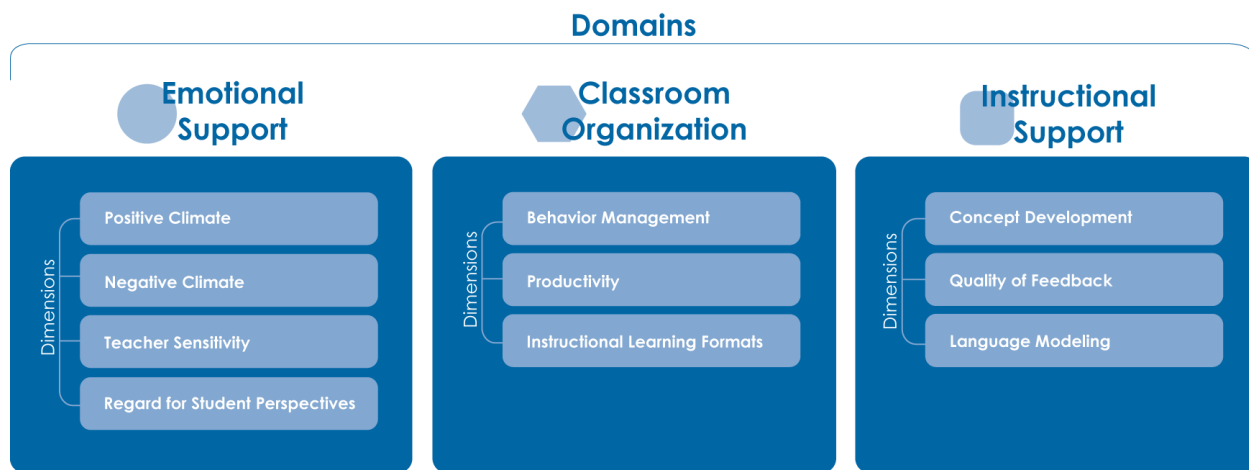
About 500 teachers across the state of California will be randomly selected to participate in CLASS™ observations. Teachers involved in Component D of CARES Plus will also participate in CLASS™ observations. Before your observation, you'll receive a camera kit with detailed information about how to set up the camera to get the best footage from your classroom. You will film yourself interacting with children for two hours on one day at the start of the year and again at the end of the year. For consistency, all teachers will film themselves at the same time of day.

Once you submit your tapes, an independent observer trained and certified by Teachstone will review your tapes, noting evidence of behaviors described by the CLASS™ tool. The CLASS™ framework organizes teacher-child interactions into three broad categories or domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. Within each domain multiple dimensions focus on different aspects of classroom interactions.

Domains

Emotional Support

Dimensions
- Positive Climate
- Negative Climate
- Teacher Sensitivity
- Regard for Student Perspectives

Classroom Organization

Dimensions
- Behavior Management
- Productivity
- Instructional Learning Formats

Instructional Support

Dimensions
- Concept Development
- Quality of Feedback
- Language Modeling

Observers look for and code only interactions and behaviors that are part of the CLASS™ framework and proven to have an impact on children's learning and development. For instance, an observer would note when a teacher and children laugh and smile together, but would not take notes on classroom features such as bulletin boards, since these are not measured by the CLASS™ tool.

The observer takes notes on a standardized CLASS™ score sheet and assigns codes for each of 10 dimensions. The codes are on a seven-point scale and are clustered into low-, mid-, and high-range scores. The information will be used to help evaluate the CARES Plus program.